

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

June 12, 2007

## Contact Person

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First Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Madison returned a sealed indictment on June 7, 2007, charging Siddhartha "Sam" Shah, 51, of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, and Jignesh "Mark" Jagaria, 36, of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, in a four-count indictment. The indictment was unsealed upon the arrest of the defendants on June 11, 2007. The defendants have surrendered their passports and are released pending trial. The Court has not yet scheduled an arraignment date or trial date.

Shah is charged in Count One with conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States, and to harbor those aliens at Super 8 Motels in Wisconsin Dells and Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. The conspiracy count charges that from July 2005 to May 2007, Shah and unnamed others conspired to smuggle aliens into the United States and to harbor them in the motels. It is alleged that Shah arranged and paid for aliens to be smuggled from Guatemala to Wisconsin, where he arranged for them to live and work in the motels. It is further alleged that he took steps, and caused others to take steps, to conceal the existence and location of the aliens from law enforcement officers.

In Count Two, Shah and co-defendant Jagaria are charged with harboring an

illegal alien at the Super 8 Motel in Wisconsin Dells on September 22, 2006. Count Three charges Jagaria with aiding and abetting an alien in eluding immigration authorities. Count Four charges Shah with witness tampering. Specifically, Shah is charged with directing a former employee to lie to investigating federal agents about the circumstances surrounding the posting of a bond to secure the release of a smuggled alien who was later found harbored at the Super 8 Motel in Wisconsin Dells.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and up to three years of supervised release, with the exception of Count Three, which carries a maximum sentence of six months of incarceration, a \$5,000 fine, and up to one year of supervised release.

The charges are the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General; and the Wisconsin Dells Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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